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COUNTRY Hungary

REPORT

SUBJECT

Military Units,
Equipment and the Kessuth Artillery
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Encl. A to

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4 January 1957

COUNTRY: Hungary

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The 32nd Artillery Regiment

1.

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- a. The 32nd Artillery Regiment, located in the Petöfi Caserne about 200 meters from Zalaegerszeg on the highway to Ebergény (N 46-50, E 16-47), was directly subordinate to the 9th Mechanized Infantry Division (9. Gépesített Lövész Hadosztály)

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- b. The strength of this Regiment, in November 1956, was 64 officers and 480 to 500 EM. The 32nd Artillery Regiment consisted of three artillery battalions (osztály) which had approximately 160 officers and EM each. Each battalion had three batteries (uteg). In addition, this Regiment had one headquarters battery (törzsűteg), consisting of signal, quartermaster, and artillery technical personnel.

- c. The CO of the 32nd Artillery Regiment was Captain Toth Sandar, artillery branch.

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d. This Regiment used the following training areas:

- (1) Zalarét, located 700 meters from the Petöfi Caserne.
- (2) The training grounds near Vasvár (N 47-03, E 16-48), where artillery tactics were taught.
- (3) The training area near Ujdörög (Ujdörögdi tüzérségi löté).
- (4) The artillery range (tüzérségi löté) near Varpalota (N 47-12, E 18-08).

e. [redacted] items of equipment used by the 32nd Artillery Regiment:

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- (1) Twelve 76 mm Soviet Divisional Guns, 1942 model.
- (2) Twenty-four 122 mm Soviet Howitzers, M 1938 (M-30), on ZIS-151 trucks.
- (3) Sixty to 70 R-10 and R-20 Soviet-type radios in use; there was about the same number in the supply room.
- (4) An unidentified Soviet-type radio. [redacted] this radio was generally used on the divisional level only. [redacted]
- (5) One 132 mm Rocket Launcher, M-13, on a ZIS-151 truck. This was a hand-operated, semi-automatic weapon, with phosphor shells which ignited after explosion. These weapons were allegedly used at special regiments [redacted] at Orkeny-Tabor [redacted] one such regiment was located there. This regiment was allegedly deactivated in 1954.
- (6) Vippon [redacted] and Csene three-ton trucks [redacted]

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f. Atomic training at the 32nd Artillery Regiment included very general individual atomic defense directives and instruction on the effects of atomic radiation. Anti-chemical warfare equipment was issued to all members of the Regiment. The equipment included Soviet gas masks, anti-chemical warfare clothing, and decontaminating chemicals with directions for use.

The Kossuth Artillery OCS in Budapest

2. [redacted]

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- a. This OCS was subordinate to the Group Directorate of Educational Institutes of the Ministry of Defense (Tanintézetek csoport főnöksége) in Budapest.
- b. In November 1954, this OCS had a strength of 700 to 800 officers and EM. The OCS consisted of six batteries. The 1st and 2nd Batteries were anti-tank training batteries, the 3rd Battery was a mortar training battery, the 4th and 6th Batteries were 122 mm gun training batteries, and the 5th Battery was a 152 mm gun training battery. The 6th Battery also had two FA observation platoons (Cemérőszakasz). In addition, the OCS had assigned to it an advanced artillery officers' leadership course (űteg és osztály parancsnoki kiképzés), which consisted of three platoons -- one platoon of officers who were artillery battalion commander candidates, and two platoons of officers who were artillery battery commander candidates.

- c. The CO of the Kossuth Artillery OCS in November 1954 was Colonel Koltai Vilmos, artillery branch. [redacted]

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- d. Training areas of the OCS included:

- (1) The infantry rifle range (Pilisvörösvári gyalogsági lötérr) near Pilisvörösvár (N 47-37, E 18-54).
- (2) The rifle range (lötér) near Nagytetény.
- (3) An artillery range near Kerepes (N 47-33, E 19-17).
- (4) Artillery ranges near Bajna (N 47-39, E 18-36), Várpálot, Verpelét (N 47-51, E 20-14), and Ujdörög.

- e. Equipment of the OCS [redacted] included:

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- (1) Two 45 mm Anti-tank Guns, M1942.
- (2) Eight 57 mm Anti-tank Guns, M1943.
- (3) Four 76 mm Divisional Guns, M1942.
- (4) Four 120 mm Regimental Mortars, M1943.
- (5) Six 122 mm Howitzers, M1938 (M-30).
- (6) Four 152 mm Howitzers M1943 (D-1).
- (7) One 132 mm Rocket Launcher, M-13.
- (8) R-10, R-20, R-7 radios [redacted]

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- f. Training at the Kossuth Artillery OCS qualified graduates as platoon leaders of artillery units. Most of the graduates were assigned to FA units; but some were assigned to 57 mm anti-tank units, 76 mm anti-tank units, or SP Gun batteries of infantry regiments.

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The 51st Artillery Regiment

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- a. This Regiment, located in Jászberény (N 47-30, E 19-55) on Nagykátai Street, was directly subordinate to an unidentified infantry division at Gyöngyös (N 47-47, E 19-56).
- b. In October 1951, this Regiment had a strength of 450 officers and EM. The Regiment consisted of three artillery battalions of three batteries each.
- c. The CO of the 51st Artillery Regiment in October 1951 was Captain (now Major) Varga Ferenc, artillery branch. [redacted] 25X1
- d. Training areas of the Regiment included:
- (1) An artillery range near Verpelét.
 - (2) A training area near Nagykáta (N 47-25, E 19-45).
- e. Equipment of this Regiment was approximately the same as that of the 32nd Artillery Regiment (see paragraph 1-e. above).

Soviet OB in Hungary

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[redacted] unidentified Soviet armored regiment in Kőrmend (N 47-01, E 16-36).

Events at the 32nd Artillery Regiment During the Revolution

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[redacted] On 25 October a large crowd gathered outside the barracks. An AVH lieutenant fired into the crowd, killing two and wounding six persons. [redacted] after this event, weapons and ammunition were issued to civilians. [redacted] 25X1

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[redacted] the Soviets entered the area on 4 November 1956.

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